

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /077 W

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R 140620Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9045  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4750

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY, JO, SY

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS CHARGES OF JORDANIAN MILITARY SUPPORT  
FOR SYRIA IN LEBANON

REF: CAIRO 12258

1. EMBASSY CAN FIND NO RPT NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT CHARGES  
THAT JORDANIANS HAVE SENT MILITARY MEN AND MATERIAL TO  
LEBANON OR SYRIA IN SUPPORT OF SYRIA'S ACTIVITIES IN  
LEBANON.

2. SPURT OF ANTI-JORDAN INVECTIVE IN EGYPTIAN MEDIA  
(REFTEL, BIS LD111532Y AND JN120718Y) HAS INFURIATED  
SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER BADRAN,  
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ACCORDING TO PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS COUNSELOR,

ESPECIALLY WHEN GOJ CONTINUES TO TRY TO KEEP LID ON JORDANIAN MEDIA CRITICISM OF EGHPT. GOJ SAID TO REALIZE JORDAN IS BEING USED AS WHIPPING GOY FOR EGYPIANS'S ANGER AT SYRIANS AT A TIME WHEN EGYPTIANS CHOOSE TO EASE FRONTAL PROPAGANDA ATTACK ON SYRIA. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN CHARGE, GOJ HAS NOT OFFICIALLY EXPRESSED OBJECTIONS TO EGHPTIAN MEDIA CRITICISM, BUT HAS VIGOROUSLY STEPPED UP CONFISCATION OF EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPERS AT AIRPORT WITHIN PAST FEW WEEKS.

3. AS FOR EGYPTIAN CHARGES OF JORDAN-SYRIA COLLUSION OVER LEBANON AND INTENTIONS TO FORM WIDER JOINT POLITICAL FRONT, EGYPTIAN CHARGE TOLD EMBASSY THAT HE HAS BEEN REPORTING TO CAIRO HIS DOUBTS THAT JORDAN INTENDS TOO MUCH CLOSER FORMAL POLITICAL ASSOCIATION WITH SYRIA, OR THAT MOST JORDANIANS WOULD ACCEPT MUCH CLOSER POLITICAL TIES.

4. COMMENT: WITH KING HUSSEIN OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND OTHER IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY INFLUENTIALS TRAVELING ABROAD DURING RAMADAN, NO IMPORTANT DECISIONS LIKELY TO BE MADE SUCH AS ANY DECISION TO RESPOND IN KIND TO EGYPTIAN PRESS CRITICISM. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE EPISODE STRENGTHENS VIEW OF SOME JORDANIANS BOTH THAT EGYPT CONSIDERS JORDAN INIMPORTANT AND THAT JORDAN'S INTERESTS ARE VULNERABLE BY TOO RIGID AN ASSOCIATION WITH SYRIA IN REGIONAL AS OPPOSED TO BILATERAL MATTERS.  
SUDDARTH

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